Memorandum submitted by the Royal Indian Navy Mutineers' Association

1560. SHRI N. E. BALARAM : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Royal Indian Navy (RIN) Mutineers' Association has recently submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that all those Royal Indian Navy personnel who were discharged from service before August 15, 1947 under any ground should be treated as participants in the RIN mutiny of 1946 and be extended the benefits given to freedom fighters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum has recently been received. It is under consideration.

Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

1561. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have invited the views of the State Transport Ministers and various transport organisations on the basic policy and approach to be followed by amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(b) whether any response from any side in this respect has been received by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what further changes Government propose to make in the existing Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main suggestions received from different State Governments regarding amendments to the basic policies and approach of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are the following :—

(i) reintroduction of restrictions on the issuing of stage carriage permits;

(ii) deletion of the enabling provision regarding fixing the age of vehicles;

(iii) grant of special permits for idle vehicles;

(iv) removal of the ceiling on personal holding of tourist vehicles and National Permits;

(v) restoration of powers to State Transport Undertakings to notify schemes of nationalisation without reference to the State Government;

(vi) deletion of the provision regarding removal of unattended and abandoned vehicles;

(vii) making optional the wearing of protective headgear for drivers of two wheelers; and

(viii) reduction of amount in fines.

(d) A Committee has also been set up to review the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in the light of various representations received in this regard to examine various proposals.

Statement of Sri Lankan Minister Shri Ranjan Wijeratne on Tamil Refugees

1562. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of